

New State Fire Marshal Appointed

Kate Dargan becomes first woman state fire marshal

On March 26, 2007 Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger announced the appointment of Katherine "Kate" Dargan as California's state fire marshal. Dargan's appointment comes after former State Fire Marshal Ruben Grijalva was appointed CAL FIRE director.

"Kate's expertise in the public safety field as a hands-on firefighter and in high level management positions within the department greatly qualifies her to fill this position," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "I look forward to working with her in this leadership role. I also want to thank Ruben Grijalva for all his tremendous work as state fire marshal and am excited to continue working with him in his new capacity as

director of the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection."

Dargan has over 30 years of

ter response including the Governor's Office of Emergency Services.

Prior to joining the Cooperative Fire Protection, Dargan served as battalion chief for the air attack base and conservation camp in the Nevada-Yuba-Placer unit from 1997 to 2000, where she founded the Nevada County Fire Safe Council. Dargan began her career with CAL FIRE as a firefighter in Santa Cruz County in 1977, before being promoted to fire captain and fire apparatus engineer in San Luis Obispo and Monterey Counties from 1980 to 1994.

She serves as co-chair of the Wildland-Urban Interface Committee and is an appointed member to the Napa County Watershed

Board. Additionally, Dargan is a member of the California Fire Chiefs Association, National Fire Protection Association and the American Planning Association.

Chief Dargan's appointment is historical, as she becomes the first woman state fire marshal. "I am honored Governor Schwarzenegger has chosen me as the first woman to become California's state fire marshal," said Dargan. "I look forward to utilizing my extensive and unique background with CAL FIRE in this new position."

Dargan lives in Napa and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in natural resources management from California Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo.



Director Ruben Grijalva swears in new State Fire Marshal Kate Dargan.

Photos by Daniel Berlant

experience with CAL FIRE. Since 2005, she has served as the assistant state fire marshal. From 2002 to 2005, Dargan served as the Napa County Fire Marshal in the Sonoma-Lake-Napa unit and before that was the division chief for Sacramento Headquarters' Cooperative Fire Protection in

2001, where she was the CAL FIRE liaison to state agencies involved in disas-